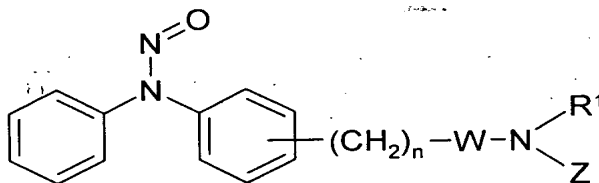


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) Compound of the formula I:



in which

each of the phenyl rings represented is optionally substituted one or more times;

n represents an integer selected from 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5;

W represents -CO- or -SO₂-;

Z represents H; alkyl; aryl; or arylalkyl;

R₁ represents any monovalent organic group;

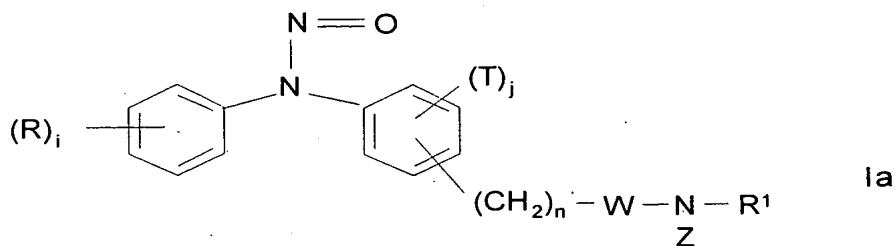
and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. (Original) Compound according to Claim 1 of the formula I, in which:

R¹ represents -A-Cy in which A represents a bond, alkylene or alkenylene; and Cy represents aryl, which is optionally substituted by one or more radicals St; heteroaryl, which is optionally substituted by one or more radicals St; or a saturated and/or unsaturated heterocycle, which is optionally substituted by one or more radicals St; or alternatively R¹ represents -A-NR_aR_b, in which A is as defined above; R_a represents H or alkyl; and R_b represents alkyl;

St is selected from nitro; a halogen atom; cyano; optionally halogenated alkylthio; alkylamino; dialkylamino; optionally halogenated alkyl; optionally halogenated alkoxy; a saturated and/or unsaturated heterocycle, which is optionally substituted by alkyl or alkoxy.

3. (Currently Amended) Compound of the formula Ia:



in which

W represents -CO- or SO₂-;

n represents an integer selected from 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5;

i represents an integer selected from 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5;

R_i which may be identical or different, represent optionally halogenated alkoxy; optionally halogenated alkylthio; optionally halogenated alkyl; optionally halogenated alkylsulfonyl; halogen; dialkylamino; cyano; alkylamino; or nitro;

Z represents H; alkyl; aryl; or arylalkyl;

T represents H or a halogen atom; or an alkyl group; an alkoxy group; an alkylthio group; an alkylamino group; or a dialkylamino group;

j represents an integer selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4;

R¹ is as defined in ~~either of Claims 1 and 2~~ Claim 1; and

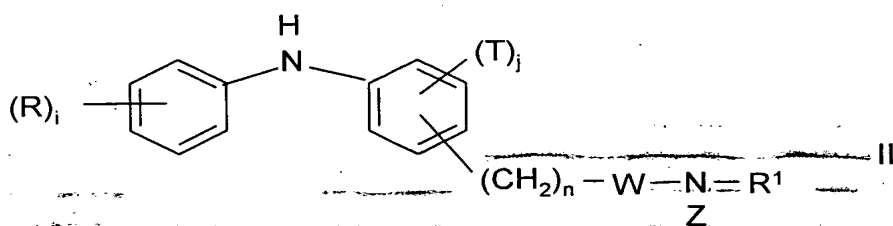
the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) Compound according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, characterised in that R¹ represents optionally substituted phenyl; -(CH₂)_r-Ph^o, in which Ph^o is optionally substituted and r represents an integer selected from 1, 2 and 3, preferably 1; -B-phenyl, in which B represents C₂-C₅ alkenylene; -(CH₂)_t-Het, in which t is an integer selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3; and Het represents an optionally substituted saturated and/or unsaturated aromatic heterocycle, preferably monocyclic, containing 1 to 3 hetero atoms selected from N, O and S; or Het represents quinuclidine; -(CH₂)_s-NR_aR_b, in which s is an integer selected from 0, 1 and 2 and R_a and R_b, which may be identical or different, are alkyl.

5. (Original) Compound according to Claim 4, characterised in that R¹ represents -(CH₂)_t-Het in which Het is a radical selected from pyridyl; imidazolyl; piperidyl; piperazinyl;

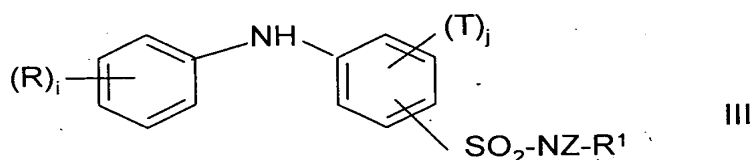
and pyrimidyl, the said heterocycle being optionally substituted.

6. (Currently Amended) Compound according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, characterised in that Z represents H.
7. (Currently Amended) Compound according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1, characterised in that W represents SO₂; R¹ represents -(CH₂)_t-Het, in which t represents an integer selected from 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 and Het represents an aromatic heterocycle, which is preferably monocyclic, containing 1 to 3 hetero atoms selected from O, N and S, the said heterocycle optionally being substituted.
8. (Original) Compound according to Claim 7, characterised in that Het represents pyridyl and t is 0 or 1.
9. (Currently Amended) Compound according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1, characterised in that W is -CO-; and R¹ represents -(CH₂)_t-Het in which t is an integer selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3; and Het represents an aromatic heterocycle, which is preferably monocyclic, containing 1 to 3 hetero atoms selected from O, N and S, the said heterocycle optionally being substituted.
10. (Original) Compound according to Claim 9, characterised in that Het is pyridyl and t is 0 or 1.
11. (Currently Amended) Compound according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ Claim 1, characterised in that the group -(CH₂)_n-W-N(Z)-R¹ is in a meta position or in the para position relative to the -N-N=O group.
12. (Original) Process for preparing compounds of the formula I, which comprises the reaction of a compound of the formula II:



in which R, T, i, j, n, W, Z and R¹ are as defined in Claim 3,
with a nitrosating agent, such as an alkali metal nitrite, in acidic medium.

13. (Original) Compound of the formula III:



in which:

i, j, R, Z and T are as defined in Claim 1;

R¹ represents phenyl, which is optionally substituted by one or more radicals St; -(CH₂)_r-Ph^o, in which Ph^o is optionally substituted by one or more radicals St and r represents an integer selected from 1, 2 and 3, or alternatively R¹ represents -(CH₂)_t-Het, in which Het is a radical selected from pyridyl; imidazolyl; piperidyl; piperazinyl; and pyrimidyl, the said radical optionally being substituted by one or more radicals St and t is selected from an integer 0, 1, 2 and 3; with the exclusion of the following compounds defined by formula III in which:

a) R in position 2 = R in position 4 = NO₂; i=2; j=0; Z=H; and R¹ = 2-pyridyl;

or

b) R in position 2 = R in position 4 = NO₂; i=2; j=0; Z=H; and R¹ represents 2,6-dimethyl-4-pyrimidyl, or 4,6-dimethyl-2-pyrimidyl;

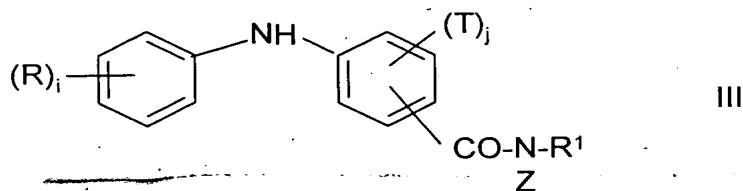
c) R¹ represents phenyl; Z=H; i=0,1; j=0; and R represents diethylamino;

d) R¹ represents 2,4-dinitrophenyl; i=2; R in position 2 = R in position 4 = NO₂; j=0; Z=H;

e) R¹ represents 2,4,6-triisopropylphenyl; Z=H; i=1; j=0; R=di(n-hexyl)amino;

f) R in position 2 = R in position 6 = R in position 4 = NO₂; i = 3; j = 0; Z = H; R¹ = 2,6-dimethoxy-4-pyrimidyl.

14. (Original) Compound of the formula III



in which:

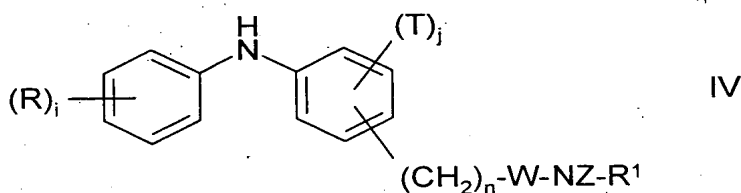
i, j, R, Z and T are as defined in Claim 1;

R¹ represents phenyl, which is optionally substituted by one or more radicals St; $-(CH_2)_r-Ph^\circ$, in which Ph[°] is optionally substituted by one or more radicals St and r represents an integer selected from 1, 2 and 3; or R¹ represents $-(CH_2)_t-Het$, in which Het is a radical selected from pyridyl; imidazolyl; piperidyl; piperazinyl; and pyrimidyl, the said radical optionally being substituted by one or more radicals St, St being as defined in Claim 2, and t is selected from an integer 0, 1, 2 and 3; with the exclusion of the following compounds defined by formula III in which:

a) R₁ = 4-methyl-3-nitrophenyl; 4-ethoxyphenyl; 2-bromo-4-nitrophenyl; phenyl; 4-bromophenyl; 2-chlorophenyl; 3-fluorophenyl; 4-methoxyphenyl; 2-methoxyphenyl; 4-dimethylaminophenyl; 3-methoxyphenyl; 2,4-dinitrophenyl; 4-methylphenyl; 3-methylphenyl; or 2-methylphenyl; i=2, 3; R=NO₂; j=0;

b) R₁ = 2-pyridyl; i=3; R=NO₂; j=0.

15. (Original) Compound of the formula IV:



in which:

W represents -CO- or -SO₂-;

R, Z, T, I and j are as defined in Claim 3;

R¹ represents phenyl, which is optionally substituted by one or more radicals St;

$-(CH_2)_r-Ph^\circ$, in which Ph[°] is optionally substituted by one or more radicals St, St being as defined in Claim 2, and r represents an integer selected from 1, 2 and 3; or R¹ represents $-(CH_2)_t-Het$, in

which Het is a radical selected from pyridyl; imidazolyl; piperidyl; piperazinyl; and pyrimidyl, the said radical optionally being substituted by one or more radicals St and t is selected from the integers 0, 1, 2 and 3.

16. (Currently Amended) Pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of the formula I according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 11~~ Claim 1 in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

17. (Currently Amended) Pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of the formula III or IV according to ~~any one of Claims 13 to 15~~ Claim 13, respectively, in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

18. (Currently Amended) Use of a compound of the formula I according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 11~~ Claim 1, for the preparation of a medicament that can be used in the treatment of pathologies that are characterised by an oxidative stress condition and a lack of availability of endothelial nitrogen monoxide.

19. (Currently Amended) Use of a compound of the formula III or IV according to ~~any one of Claims 13 to 15~~ Claim 13, respectively, in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients for the preparation of an antioxidant medicament that can be used as a free-radical scavenger.

20. (Currently Amended) Use of a compound of the formula I according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 11~~ Claim 1, or of a compound of the formula II as defined in Claim 12, for the preparation of a medicament that can be used in the treatment of metabolic insulin resistance syndrome.